

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 12/10/04

Agenda Item: 5

To: BEACON Board of Directors

From: Technical Advisor

Date 12/01/04

Subject: Section 227 Project – Oil Piers Reef

REQUIRED ACTION:

- a. Approve the Final Environmental Assessment/Negative Declaration (01-ND-04, SCH No. 2004104001) for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines;

DISCUSSION:

The Army Corps of Engineers' Section 227 program authorizes the Army and its contractors to design and construct innovative shoreline protection projects at several sites around the country. The former Mobil Oil Piers site in Ventura County was selected as Southern California's project site. A conceptual design has been prepared for an artificial reef at Oil Piers as part of the Section 227 program and contingent on available funding, will be built in the summer of 2005. As the local sponsor, BEACON entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Corps setting forth project responsibilities for the two entities.

The MOA requires that BEACON ultimately be responsible for repair, rehabilitation, maintenance, and possibly removal of the artificial reef. These actions require compliance with CEQA by BEACON, the state lead agency for the project. The Corps is the Federal lead agency and is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Corps prepared a joint CEQA/NEPA document for the project.

A draft Environmental Assessment/Negative Declaration was prepared by the Corps and made available for public review and comment on October 15, 2004. The 30-day public review period for the EA/ND (01-ND-04) closed on November 17, 2004. Comment letters were received from (4) four different agencies. Most of the comments regarded interagency coordination and clarification of technical issues. The comments and the Corps' responses to those comments are included in Appendix F of the Final EA/ND.

Upon BEACON Board approval of the Final EA/ND, the Corps will pursue all the necessary permits and approvals for the project. Although the Corps and BEACON will be joint applicants on most of the permits, Corps staff will obtain all of the necessary permits and approvals on BEACON's behalf.



A California Joint Powers Agency

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